



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

January 10, 2012

10:00 AM

RI Emergency Management Agency

645 New London Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Lt. Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts

Theresa Murray

Ed Johnson

Robert Seltzer

Jack Chartier

Albert Lewis

Alysia Mihalakos

Peter Marianucci

Robert Leach

Peter Popko

Shannan D. Rooney

Maryann Medeiros

Bill Mullen

Joe McCooey

Peter Ginaitt

Jay Levenson

Jeffrey Kelly

Joe Arsenault

Claudia Staniszewski

Donna Longo DiMichele

Elizabeth McDonald

Joseph Baker

Alan Steitz

Lori Adamo

Marian Juskuv
Vladimir Ibarra

I. Comments/Welcoming Remarks Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Chair Roberts opened the meeting highlighting Governor Chafee's announced Friday, January 6th of RI EMA's new Executive Director Theresa Murray. The Chair thanked Deputy Ed Johnson for stepping in as Interim Director and discussed her involvement with the Director's Search Committee along with Chief Robert Seltzer, Col. Stephen Pare (Commissioner of Public Safety in Providence) and Chief Stephen McCartney of Warwick.

The Chair noted that Ms. Murray's experience with several federal agencies including the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development will prove most useful in her new capacity with RI EMA. Also, the Chair recalled that about a year ago Ms. Murray provided a presentation to our group on Regional Catastrophic Cyber Disruption.

Lastly, the Chair asked Ms. Mihalakos, Co-Chair of the RI Hospital Preparedness Working Group if she had an update on the Pertussis situation in Barrington. Ms. Mihalakos informed the chair that the RI Department of Health decided to open up a vaccination clinic for Barrington residents on Thursday, January 12 and Friday, January 13 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Barrington School cafeteria. The vaccination clinic will be designated as a catch up clinic for ten, eleven and twelve year olds.

II. Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2011

The minutes from the December 13th meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency Update

Theresa Murray, RIEMA Executive Director

Director Murray recalled her presentation to the EMAC membership about a year ago and discussed her work within RI EMA for the past two and a half years as a sort of "on the job training". Her first priority as Director will be to focus on the internal workings of RI EMA so that it operates more effectively as they move ahead with new efforts. She expressed that she has an open door policy and looks forward to continuing her involvement with the council.

Ed Johnson, RIEMA Deputy Director

Deputy Johnson discussed some of the systems changes relate to Tropical Storm Irene that will be implemented for this year and the National Emergency Managers Association's policy shift towards more community involvement and consolidation of resources as an emerging trend that will certainly affect state funding.

IV. National Disaster Recovery Framework, Col (Ret) Albert Lewis, Federal Coordinating Officer, FEMA Region I.

FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) and Long Term Community Recovery (LTCR, ESF-14) were introduced by Col. Lewis FCO. Mr. Lewis stated that Long Term Recovery is a marathon as illustrated by the fact that several Alabama communities who were affected five years ago are still at sixty-five percent recovery.

The Framework was developed based on past large-scale recovery efforts revealing areas of weakness, including but not limited to guidance, training and common doctrine. To transform recovery, the Framework will increase effectiveness of organization via the promotion of post-disaster organization establishments, will forge common understanding across levels of government prior to disasters, and create scalable and flexible coordination structures thus streamlining assistance.

The Framework is based on three key elements: leadership; pre- and post-disaster recovery planning; and recovery support functions. A timeline has been determined, dynamic to size and scope of the disaster, to include on-going preparedness, short-term post-disaster (in days), intermediate response (weeks and months), and long-term recovery (months to years).

There are four major steps in the decision-making process of Long Term Community Recovery (LTCR): preliminary assessment, sector analysis, planning support, and implementation support. LTCR preliminary assessments include overall damage to community, damage to housing and businesses, impact on the community, essential services financial support, amount of trauma as a result of disaster, etc. Elements for a successful recovery are: the early activation of LTCR, community engagement, recovery support function leadership, partnerships and commitments at all levels, etc. Some issues with LTCR are understanding of roles within FDRC and LTCR, as well as the skill set needed for each, management of expectations, and funding for local capacity for recovery, among others.

V. New Business, Member Comments, Suggestions

Elizabeth McDonald from the American Red Cross discussed two upcoming shelter workshops being provided in Rhode Island on January 27th and 28th as only one of three states in the country to offer that course.

Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 14 and it will be Subcommittee Reports.